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Plans for tunnel unveiled

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

A single five-station tunnel running two trains between Lebreton Flats and the University of Ottawa is the early preferred route for the city's underground rapid-transit tunnel through the downtown.

Yesterday, the city's manager of Transportation and Infrastructure Planning, Vivi Chi, updated city councillors on the progress of the downtown-route study.

The preferred plan for the \$600-million tunnel has one station at the western opening on the tunnel near Albert Street and Bronson Avenue. It would travel east for a few blocks along Albert Street to a station near Lyon Street, then shift north to another station near the intersection of O'Connor and Queen Streets.

Another station would be located near the intersection of Rideau Street and Colonel By Drive, partly beneath the Rideau Centre. Chi said there are three options regarding the placement of the fifth station near the Campus Transitway stop where the tunnel ends.

Downtown core

- David Hopper, project manager from infrastructure consulting firm Delcan, said the entire downtown core would fall within a 500-metre radius of the proposed station locations.
- Hopper suggested that since the tunnel would be much deeper than the building foundations, the city could build a concourse for people walking to stations with for shops or an art gallery.

"That's the preferable alignment because it hits all the nodes of the catchments areas for ridership," said Chi.

David Jeans, president of Transport 2000, said there was still a lot of room for improvement with the plan.

"There are only three stations in the downtown core, and none of them are in convenient walking distance of city hall," he said. "The public is going to demand more stations and better connection to some of the important downtown stations."

ShareYourViews
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CFB Trenton Family members mourn slain soldiers



Family members of Pte. Justin Jones embrace at the arrival of the hearse carrying Jones' casket to Canadian Forces Base Trenton yesterday. The casket of Jones arrived with those of Cpl. Thomas Hamilton and Pte. John Curwin. The three soldiers were killed in Afghanistan on Dec. 13, when an improvised explosive device detonated near an armoured vehicle. Since 2002, 103 Canadian soldiers have died during the Afghan mission. Go to metronews.ca/canada for more information.

OC Transpo looks to have deal with supervisors

UNION OC Transpo's garage supervisors, route supervisors and special constables may not be joining drivers on the picket lines after the city and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 5500 reached a tentative agreement on a new three-year contract

yesterday afternoon.

While the agreement — which is pending ratification — does not affect the current strike status of OC Transpo and O-Train service, it does mean 140 OC Transpo garage supervisors, route supervisors and special constables won't be go-

ing on strike on Dec. 23.

In the meantime, both transit services remain closed due to the strike by ATU Local 279, which represents 2,300 bus drivers, maintenance workers and dispatchers.

TRACEY TONG
/METRO OTTAWA

Safety key concern in scheduling

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

TRANSIT The mayor and the city manager both say their primary concern is public safety and the quality of life of the city's bus drivers.

Under the current scheduling system, Mayor Larry O'Brien said OC Transpo drivers can — and do — work back-to-back 11-hour shifts, or 22 of 24 hours.

"The first and most important concern of council is the safety of citizens," he said.

While there are productivity, efficiency and financial advantages to the city's scheduling system proposed to OC Transpo employees, city manager Kent Kirkpatrick said ensuring there is less fatigue among drivers is an issue of public safety.

The city has been attempting to clarify the issues around the scheduling because it has been identified as the main reason the union rejected the city's final offer.

Entertainment pg 13



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NEWS

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Looking for a new career in 2009?

The Ottawa Police Service is holding a recruitment information session at Ben Franklin Place at 6 p.m. today. Attendees will hear about opportunities with the Ottawa Police, RCMP, OPP, Canadian Border Services and CSIS.

METRO OTTAWA

3

Local



An old-fashioned Christmas

Visitors can get a taste of what Christmas was like in the 1920s and 1930s at the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum from 6 to 9 p.m. today and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission ranges from \$4 for students and seniors to \$15 for families.

METRO OTTAWA

Industrial accident leaves man injured

WORK A 42-year-old man suffered a serious cut after falling off a scaffold and slicing his arm on a large sheet of metal yesterday.

At 12:18 p.m., paramedics responded to a call for an industrial accident at a construction site at Jack Donohue School on Penrith Street in the city's west end.

The man was installing drywall at a school when he slipped off a scaffold, said paramedic spokesman J.P. Trotter.

The man's co-workers rendered first aid until paramedics arrived. He remains in serious but stable condition in hospital.

Trotter said paramedics see one to two industrial accidents every week, which range from minor to life-threatening. The Ontario Ministry of Labour is notified of every incident.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA



Ottawa resident Barry Finlay, left, and his son, Chris, hold a flag with donors' signatures. The duo will spend nine days in January climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise money through Plan Canada for children in Mwanza, Tanzania.

Mountain of a resolution

TRACEY TONG
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In 2008, Barry Finlay resolved to get into shape.

This coming year, the semi-retired accountant's New Year's resolution is a bit more ambitious.

Along with his son, Chris, the Ottawa resident is planning on climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro — all 19,340 feet of it — over nine days in January.

"I realized I was turning 60 soon, and was looking for something physically challenging to celebrate," said Finlay, who celebrated his birthday last week.

And at the same time, they're raising money for children in Mwanza, Tanzania, through Plan Canada, an international humanitarian aid agency that works to improve the lives of chil-

dren. So far, they've raised more than \$10,000.

That means kids there will get a chance to realize their full potential they otherwise wouldn't have, Plan Canada development manager Heather Howes said yesterday.

On Jan. 8, father and son will arrive in Moshi, Tanzania, where they'll begin their climb with a Nevada-based company. It'll take them seven days for the ascent and two for the descent.

"It's not a technical climb," said Finlay. "It doesn't involve ropes or ladders. It's more of a long hike. But we'll be walking an average of nine hours a day uphill, so it will be challenging."

Both have been training and planning on "pacing ourselves during the festive season," joked Finlay, who has been working with a

personal trainer and spending "a lot of time hiking in the Gatineau Hills with a backpack with the boots I'll be wearing on the climb."

While family and friends have been "very supportive," the men are prepared for the possibility that they may not make it all the way up.

"The wild card is the altitude," said Finlay. "You don't know how your body is going to react."

"If I don't get to the top, I'll have to try it again at some point," said Chris. "This has been on my list of things to do for 10 years."

War through the lens of a camera focus of new exhibit

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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A new photography exhibit at the Canadian War Museum offers visitors insight into what it was like in Japan at the end of the Second World War.

Before Japan officially surrendered in August 1945, photographer John Swope travelled to the country to chronicle the release of American prisoners of war.

While turning his lens to the civilians struggling in post-war conditions, he also wrote his wife, actor Dorothy McGuire, a 144-page letter that accompanied the photographs.

Excerpts from that letter are now posted next to the photographs in the A Letter from Japan exhibit, which opens at the museum today.

"You almost get the impression of having been there," said Jeff Noakes, a Second World War historian with the Canadian War Museum.

Since he was there during a period of limbo, Swope was not subject to the same restrictions lim-

iting photographers and journalists during the American occupation.

With photographs of American prisoners next to images of bombed-out decimated Japanese cities, exhibit curator Carolyn Peter said it shows war was not as simple as good versus bad.

"At a time when the American government's approach to war is not too pleasurable to Americans or Canadians, this is showing a very sympathetic American view," she said.

The exhibit runs through March 29.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Holiday banner bearing wishes from home heading to Kandahar at metronews.ca/canada

Read Caroline Kennedy's star power making rivals for Senate seat nervous at metronews.ca/world



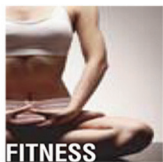
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A gondola tower at Whistler Blackcomb sheared in half yesterday afternoon, stranding about a dozen skiers and snowboarders for several hours. No one was seriously injured, but five people received medical aid. The incident occurred on the Excalibur gondola near Fitzsimmons Creek, B.C. **METRO CANADA**

Canada



Grinch steals kids' gifts

A Calgary family is wondering how to tell its kids Santa can't afford to come after a thief broke in and stole virtually all the gifts under the Christmas tree. A train, a toy drum, a Playstation 3 and about \$1,000 for next month's rent and utility bills were among the missing items after a Monday night robbery.

METRO CANADA

News in brief

BAILOUT Cash for Chrysler will have strict terms to prevent the automaker from taking advantage of taxpayers, warns Ontario's economic development minister. Michael Bryant

promised that automakers will get the financial "CPR" they need to prevent the loss of more than 500,000 jobs in Ontario, as predicted in a study if the Big Three were to go bust.

SEIZURE Newfoundland and Labrador will expropriate AbitibiBowater Inc.'s timber and hydroelectric assets when the company closes its mill there next year, Premier Danny

Williams said yesterday. The firm had "the privilege" of using the province's natural resources and now the government is returning them to the people, he said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Toronto Strikers hop downtown



Members of CUPE and York University students took their protest to Toronto's Bay Street yesterday to push for negotiations with the university to resume. Nearly 50,000 students have been out of class since the strike began on Nov. 6.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Reports differ on missing UN envoy

Confusion surrounded the fate of a missing Canadian UN special envoy in Niger yesterday after a dissident Tuareg rebel faction in the West African state first said it was holding him and then denied it.

The contradictory statements about UN envoy Robert Fowler were posted on the website of the Front of Forces for Rectification (FFR), a faction which split from the main Niger Tuareg-led rebel group MNJ (Niger Justice Movement) in May.

UN officials said Monday

the vehicle in which Fowler, his Canadian aide Louis Guay and a local driver were travelling was found abandoned on Sunday evening 45 km north-east of the capital Niamey.

A first posting yesterday on the FFR website said the group's fighters were holding four people, including Fowler.

A subsequent posting hours later by FFR denied the group was holding Fowler but acknowledged he could have been abducted.

REUTERS

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OPEC rallies behind record oil-supply cut

OPEC oil ministers lined up yesterday to support what would be the group's biggest output cut as crude prices fell further. Saudi Arabia was first to publicly support a reduction of two-million barrels per day ahead of OPEC's meeting today. That figure was swiftly endorsed by other group members. **REUTERS**

5

World



Madoff unlikely to oust Ponzi in lingo

Bernard Madoff may have to wait awhile before his name becomes a term in the popular lexicon and bumps off "Ponzi," which has become shorthand for financial fraud. Madoff's name is already being used for puns, such as, "He Made-off with my money," following his arrest last week on fraud charges in what investigators said was a "Ponzi" scheme that cost his investors \$50 billion US.

REUTERS

France Student protest



CHARLES PLATON/REUTERS

French high school students shout slogans during a demonstration in Paris yesterday, the day after French Education Minister Xavier Darcos announced he would indefinitely delay a reform of the secondary school curriculum after protests by pupils turned violent last week. The placard reads Withdraw the Darcos Reform.

News in brief

DISEASE Eastern China's Jiangsu province has culled 377,000 poultry after laying hens tested positive for the H5N1 bird flu virus, the Ministry of Agriculture said yesterday, in the first reported case since the early summer.

PIRACY The UN Security Council yesterday authorized countries fighting piracy off the Somali coast to also take action on Somalia's territory and in its airspace, subject to approval by the country's government.

REUTERS

Italy pursues 100 mobsters

Italian police said they launched a pre-dawn swoop yesterday to arrest 100 people suspected of trying to rebuild the top ranks of the Sicilian Mafia, which has been weakened by the recent arrests of powerful mob leaders.

The "Perseus" operation, conducted with more than 1,200 police officers, helicopters and anti-drug units, was in progress across Sicily and parts of Tuscany.

The mobsters are being pursued on charges of ex-

"If Cosa Nostra was on its knees after operation Gotha in June 2006, then with operation Perseus it has been prevented from getting up again."

Pietro Grasso

tortion, trafficking arms and drugs, and having mafia links.

They are suspected of trying to recreate the top-level Cosa Nostra body responsible for taking important decisions, with the support of Matteo Messina Denaro, one of the most

powerful godfathers on the run.

"If Cosa Nostra was on its knees after operation Gotha in June 2006, then with operation Perseus it has been prevented from getting up again," said Italy's anti-mafia prosecutor Pietro Grasso.

Italian police have inflicted major blows on the Sicilian mafia with arrests of several high-profile mafiosi in recent years, such as the "boss of bosses" Bernardo Provenzano in 2006 and his heir apparent, Salvatore Lo Piccolo, in 2007.

Young Sicilians have also been leading efforts to rally local business people into resisting payment of the "pizzo," or protection money that helps fund the Mafia's activities.

REUTERS

Dozens of Russian tourists die in Israel bus crash

FATALITIES An Israeli bus full of newly arrived Russian tourists veered off a desert road and plunged down a ravine yesterday, killing at least 24 people and seriously injuring about a dozen more.

The crash, in the desert north of the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat, was one of the worst Israeli road accidents in years.

Soldiers, police and res-

"I saw people flying out of the windows as the bus rolled down the slope."

Witness to the crash

cue workers rushed to the scene and army helicopters helped evacuate dozens of injured survivors.

"I saw people flying out of the windows as the bus rolled down the slope,"

said one driver who witnessed the crash.

Bodies, baggage and bits of wreckage were scattered over the steep slope down from the highway, and the bus lay on its side on the rocky desert floor.

An officer shouted orders through a bullhorn as stretcher teams laid out a long line of white plastic body bags. Israel's Airport Authority said the victims had just arrived from St. Petersburg at Ovda airport, which serves Eilat. A police source said they were Russian tourists. An official at the Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv said he had no confirmed information. **REUTERS**

Greek PM pledges to fight corruption after protests

UNREST Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis pledged yesterday to tackle corruption after 11 days of violence triggered by the police killing of a teenager and fuelled by public anger at scandals and a slowing economy.

About 100 youths attacked a police station in Athens, setting fire to a bus and four cars belonging to officers. Students

briefly occupied the state TV station, interrupting the news, and violence flared in the northern city of Thessaloniki.

Karamanlis said helping Greeks — a fifth of whom live in poverty — was a priority, but his options were restricted by the country's onerous debt, made worse by the riots that quickly spread across Greece.

REUTERS

Pakistan eyes crackdown after Mumbai attacks: Kerry

EFFORTS The attacks in the Indian city of Mumbai last month have convinced Pakistani leaders of the need for a serious crackdown on the Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), U.S. Senator John Kerry said yesterday.

India has accused LeT of involvement in the November attacks that killed 179 people.

Pakistani security forces

have detained more people than India was aware of in a sweep that began a little over a week ago, and the government was intent on convicting anyone linked to the Mumbai attacks, Kerry said.

Kerry was visiting Pakistan after a trip to India as part of an effort to reduce tensions between the two rivals.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Winter wonderland

Vancouverites wondering what happened to global warming

The WestView

Paul Sullivan

Journalist & Media Consultant

I've had it with all the complaining from the Prairies about the alleged "deep freeze" they're enduring.

Cold it may be, but they're used to it. They even have those little plug things sticking out of the front end of their combines to keep them nice and warm. And I understand they have to wear long underwear between October and April or face a stiff fine.

Those people are prepared.

Here in Vancouver, however, it's only going up to zero today, (gasp!) and these Arctic conditions have taken us completely by surprise. It's a state of emergency. Our local competitor, the Vancouver Sun, is so swept up in the

general panic, yesterday morning's front page featured a 200-point headline warning: "Get ready for 10 days below zero."

Below the fold, there's an entirely serious piece from star columnist Pete McMartin sternly taking the Environment Canada guy to task for failing to predict a five-centimetre snowfall. It's a scandal!

But we ain't seen nothin' yet. According to the long-term forecast from Accuweather, cold records could be smashed over the next few days. The overnight temperature could plummet to -11 C. The chastened Environment Canada guy has been forced to admit there may even be more snow coming.

Whatever happened to global warming?

Laugh you

may, but this is a city that practises annual winter denial. The beaches and sidewalk cafes are busy (thanks to those industrial-grade heaters), and every year we wait for a mild day and dash out with the lawn mower and the camera so we can send our hapless eastern relatives pictures of us mowing the lawn in December.

There will be no lawns mowed this December. There will be no lawns this

December. We may even — wait for it — be forced to endure a white Christmas and all the hoo-hah that goes with it.

Of course, our dirty little secret is that it snows every winter in Vancouver, at least it has since I've lived here — nearly 20 years. It usually lasts for a couple days and then the rain comes and mercifully washes it all away. But every time it snows, you'd think it was the first time.

We crash into each other with reckless abandon, close all the schools and lose power, forced to huddle in the dark by candlelight until it blows over.

One day, perhaps, we'll all go, "Oh!" and buy hats and mitts and shovels and get on with it. In the meantime, if this year's Christmas card includes a photo of Uncle Fred mowing his lawn in December, be suspicious. Be very suspicious.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.



Letters

Transit is essential for many in Ottawa

Where are the police services in Ottawa during this bus strike? Last week, I got a ride from a friend who parks in the Place de Ville complex. At 3:30 p.m., we met in the parking lot of the building. We couldn't get out of the parking lot because of the traffic jam in the streets. After 45 minutes, I decided to walk home.

Since I live in Westboro, and pay close to \$5,000 in taxes, I was wondering as to why the whole sidewalk of Scott Street was under snow. So I couldn't get a ride home because of traffic, and could hardly walk home because of no snow removal.

Where do our taxes go? Buses are essential to single women with kids, for the elderly, for the poor.

DENIS EMARD, OTTAWA

Strike blamed for sparse Stanley Cup showing

Thank you for your article about the Stanley Cup in Ottawa on the weekend.

Mr. Bolt, the cup keeper, wondered why only 1,000 people came out. The location is not ideal during this transit strike. I would have

gone to see it along with my six-year-old aspiring hockey player son Nathan, but where would I park at city hall? In a bus lane?

Please let Mr. Bolt know that if he wants to bring the cup back to Ottawa, I'll be there.

Maybe he would bring it to my son's hockey tournament on Dec. 28? I'm sure all the kids there would love to see it and it might bring more fans out to the tournament.

NEIL BROMMELL, OTTAWA

Quebec taken to task over naming of tree

Shame on the Liberals in Quebec to entertain such petty issues (Christmas tree or holiday tree) when the country is in recession.

I come from a country where there are only four per cent Christians, yet we never thought of changing the name of the Christmas season to holiday season or Christmas tree to holiday tree.

One need not compromise or change their religious values to accommodate people of other religions. Calling a Christmas tree a holiday tree is very offending.

BINDU MATHEW, TORONTO

Word on the street: Would Michael Ignatieff make a better prime minister than Stephen Harper?

Ryan Wake

age 24, Ottawa

A: I think Ignatieff would make a good prime minister, mostly because he is an academic. I think he is a thoughtful and philosophical individual.

Rachelle Lalonde

age 29, Ottawa

A: Ignatieff. His organization is stellar and he has very good leadership qualities. Definitely, I think he would be a great prime minister.

Craig Davison

age 38, Ottawa

A: My issue with Ignatieff is that I don't consider him Canadian ... It seems like he's come back with the sole objective of meeting some political desire of his.

Alexandra Ma

age 17, Toronto

A: (Ignatieff). Mainly because I don't like Stephen Harper's view on things and the direction he's leading our country.

Nick Lopardo

age 24, Vancouver

A: Yes, I think he would. I'm not too pleased about the job the Conservatives have done. I'm also glad the Liberals have a new leader.

Fabienne Chery

age 20, Calgary

A: Michael who? Whoever he is, he can't be worse than Harper. (Harper) wasn't very bright right after the last election.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawalatters@metronews.ca

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8

Playboy has apologized for its Mexican edition's recent cover, which bore a nude model resembling the Virgin Mary, published days before a major festival dedicated to the virgin. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Pension plan amortization gets break

PENSION The province of Ontario, citing financial market turmoil, said yesterday that it will follow a recent Canadian government plan to temporarily allow companies more time to make up funding shortfalls in defined benefit pension plans.

Ontario will introduce legislation this spring to allow certain pension plans to extend solvency amortization periods to 10 years from five years currently, the province's Finance Ministry said in a statement.

If approved, the measures would be retroactive to Sept. 30 and active plan members and retired plan members would have to consent to the extension.

REUTERS

Spending urged

The federal government should pump \$10 billion to \$13 billion in additional spending into the flagging economy in 2009 to help pull the country out of a steep downturn, even though it could help push a deficit to \$20 billion or more, the Conference Board of Canada says.

In a report titled Fixing the Recession: Policy Guidance for Canadian Leaders, the Ottawa-based think-tank argued going into the red "is a price worth paying for an expedited economic recovery and a return of

consumer and investor confidence in our economy." But it also called for "a well-developed plan to get back into fiscal balance as soon as the economy recovers."

"Fortunately, Canada is in a much stronger fiscal position than most other nations and can easily absorb fiscal deficits over the near term," Conference Board chief economist Glen Hodgson said in a statement.

The report urged spending on infrastructure and programs that support unemployed workers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

FORESTRY The Canadian government will consider providing aid to sectors other than automakers, including the forestry industry, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said. **REUTERS**

MEDIA Quebecor Inc.'s newspaper unit, Sun Media, said yesterday it will cut 600 jobs because of the economic downturn and problems in the print media industry. **REUTERS**

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CBA asks province for tax relief

BANKS Canada's banks have issued a veiled warning to the government of Ontario: Cut corporate taxes or risk losing high-paying financial sector jobs to other jurisdictions.

The Canadian Bankers Association — which represents 51 domestic and foreign banks — is telling Ontario in a carefully worded pre-budget submission to cut corporate taxes in its next budget. It argues that tax cuts are necessary to boost the province's productivity, which is key to preserving a high standard of living and "a large number of high-quality, high-paying jobs." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

U.S. stocks surge with rate cut

MARKETS U.S. stocks accelerated gains yesterday after the Federal Reserve's surprisingly big interest-rate cut and financials surged on optimism inspired by a smaller-than-feared loss from Goldman Sachs. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 376.42 points, or 4.40 per cent, at 8,940.95. The Nasdaq Composite Index jumped 77.90 points, or 5.16 per cent, to 1,586.24.

REUTERS

Sports

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Atlanta's Jim Slater fights the Sens' Jarkko Ruutu last night.

Sens handily Thrashed

NHL RESULT

Thrashers 4 Senators 1



THE SKINNY: Besides a couple of minutes late in the second period, the Ottawa Senators played an uninspired

game as they were knocked off 4-1 by the Atlanta Thrashers at Scotiabank Place.

THE BOO BIRDS: For the second time this season, a chorus of boos rained down on the Ottawa Senators as they left the ice.

THE POWER OUTAGE: The Senators went 0-for-3 on the power play last night and are

now one for 25 in their last six games.

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE:

With only one goal last night, Ottawa has a total of 67 goals this season, the lowest of any team in the NHL.

THE NEXT GAME: The Senators meet the Devils in New Jersey on Friday night.

MIKE BEASLEY/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Rautins gets extension

BASKETBALL The coaches of the national men's and women's basketball teams have been put on notice — win or it's time to move on. Leo Rautins and Allison McNeil have been given contract extensions — and some high-powered help from eras when the national teams were fixtures at the top international competitions — but only with the proviso that they get their teams to the 2010 world championships.

Rautins and McNeil will have a new group to bounce ideas off — and take advice from — as Canada Basketball has established a "council of excellence." The nine-member panel includes Raptors senior VP Maurizio Gherardini and a host of names from Canadian basketball history.

Three former coaches — including Raptors coach Jay Triano — are included. Steve Nash joins the council as an "honorary member."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

NHL YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 4 OTTAWA 1
Carolina 3 Montreal 2
Toronto 3 New Jersey 2 (SO)
Philadelphia 5 Colorado 2
Washington 5 N.Y. Islanders 4 (OT)
Calgary at St. Louis
Phoenix at Dallas
Chicago at Edmonton
N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim

Moore, Bertuzzi meet

NHL Todd Bertuzzi and Steve Moore met across a table Monday in Toronto as part of a court-ordered mediation in a \$38-million lawsuit Moore filed after Bertuzzi grabbed him from behind, punched him in the head and landed on top of him during a 2004 NHL game.

Moore, who was a mem-

ber of the Colorado Avalanche at the time, suffered three fractured vertebrae in his neck and a concussion and hasn't played hockey since.

Bertuzzi's former coach, Marc Crawford, and lawyers for all parties were also present at Monday's session.

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Automotive

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA



Yaris worthy of Toyota lineup

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

Toyota has built its reputation on selling high-quality, fuel-efficient, economical vehicles.

One of the most economical and popular choices in the Toyota lineup is the Yaris, which comes in both hatchback and sedan styles.

Starting at about \$13,210 for the hatchback and \$13,945 for the sedan, Yaris is a surprisingly roomy subcompact that gets great fuel economy and provides a lot more amenities than you'd expect for the starting price.

Power is supplied by a 106 hp 1.5-litre DOHC four-cylinder engine, mated with either a five-speed manual or

a four-speed automatic transmission. While gasoline prices are back to reasonable levels as this is written, there's no telling where they'll be at this time next year, so gas-misers like the Yaris are becoming more popular by the day.

Transport Canada fuel consumption ratings list the 2009 Toyota Yaris sedan with automatic at 7.0L/100 km (40 mpg) city and 5.7L/100 km (50 mpg) highway.

For 2009, the Yaris has been refreshed somewhat with an enhanced front grille design and upgrade packages.

"Small car" are the key words here, although you wouldn't know it from inside the cabin. You can fit five people in the Yaris, but

2009 Toyota Yaris

Type: Subcompact
Price: \$13,210 hatchback, \$13,945 sedan
Engine: 1.5L four-cylinder
HP: 106

Highlights

- Fuel efficient
- Seats five
- Quick and responsive

the back seat is really more suited to children.

I found the front-seat legroom more than adequate, but the seats themselves could do with a bit more padding. A long road trip might be a bit hard.

One oddity in the Yaris is the positioning of the in-

strument cluster on the centre of the dashboard. I found it distracting always having to look right to check your speed.

Otherwise, the cabin is better than one might expect in an entry-level subcompact.

Ride and handling is good in the Yaris, which features quick and responsive electric rack and pinion power steering. Even on the roughest of roads, the Yaris soaks up the bumps quite nicely. Acceleration is adequate to get you up to speed in merging traffic and when overtaking slower moving vehicles.

All in all, the Yaris is a solid commuter that is fuel-efficient and family-friendly.

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USA: ONE-WAY Tango Plus fares from Ottawa. Travel must be completed by November 30, 2009.

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Sun: ONE-WAY fares from Ottawa, for travel as indicated below.

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\$139	\$215	\$215	\$239	\$249	\$265	\$269	\$439

International: Fares are EACH WAY from Ottawa and require ROUND-TRIP purchase. Departure dates as indicated below.

LONDON HEATHROW JAN. 1, 2009–APRIL 30, 2009	PARIS JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 14, 2009	MUNICH ¹ FRANKFURT ¹ JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 14, 2009	ZURICH JAN. 1, 2009–APRIL 30, 2009	SANTIAGO JAN. 6, 2009–MARCH 31, 2009	SÃO PAULO JAN. 1, 2009–JUNE 19, 2009	HONG KONG JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 24, 2009	SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA FEB. 16, 2009–MARCH 31, 2009
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One of the more unusual measures of economic uncertainty being reported nowadays concerns the takings of casinos on the Las Vegas Strip. According to Reuters, the casinos won 26 per cent less money from gamblers in October than they did a year earlier. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Travel

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Getting an eyeful at MoSex

This institution brings a whole new meaning to 'too much information'

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon



While Manhattan is home to dozens of cultural museums dedicated to high-brow art, it has only one cultural institution where you can fondle a love doll, watch panda porn and learn about the sexual habits of the honey bee.

The Museum of Sex, which opened in 2002,

claims to be the most "stimulating museum in New York." You can find a handful of sex museums scattered across Europe and Asia, but this one favours information rather than just titillation — specifically, it aims to "preserve and present the history, evolution and cultural significance of human sexuality."

Since the Museum of Sex, a.k.a MoSex, is set to spice up its permanent collec-

tion, I figured this was a good time to check it out.

The first — and certainly most interesting — of its three galleries contains an exhibit called The Sex Lives of Animals.

Strolling amidst photo displays and anatomically correct statues of creatures mid-coitus, I learn that plenty of animals mate for reasons other than procreation. Apparently, they engage in all sorts of acts for pleasure — just two of the more memorable pursuits I learned about involved the West Indian manatee and the Gray whale, both of which indulge in some remarkable group activities.

The exhibit also illustrates how prevalent homosexuality is in nature. It's a form of social bonding, affection and courtship that has been documented in over 500 species, including lions, penguins and primates.

I walked past a wall of tapir, ostrich and killer whale genitalia to the next exhibit, called Action: Sex and the Moving Image. This selection of media clips looks at the history of sex on film, from metaphorical movies dating back to the 1930s through burlesque

MoSex

- For information on admission fees, hours and discounted tickets visit museumofsex.com.

flicks and modern day pornography.

Surprisingly, the most shocking things I saw were Pamela Anderson and Paris Hilton's explicit sex tapes. With videos like these, it's no wonder that visitors have to be at least 18 years old to enter the museum.

I dragged myself from the den of cinematic sin to the final gallery, a room filled with a mishmash of paraphernalia: squeezable latex love dolls, a nine-foot S&M suspension cage, anime videos, pinup posters and antique vibrators.

I leave the Museum of Sex with the following conclusions: One, human sexuality is complicated; two, our concepts of sex, norms and taboos are constantly changing; and three, West Indian manatees are having more sex than I am.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

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Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Anti-Christmas classics

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

As we enter the last shopping week before the most commercial of all holidays, it's getting to be that special time of year when everyone gets a little sick of Christmas.

After all, you can only hear the high pitched squeal of the Chipmunks whining about wanting "a hula hoop" while you claw your way through the riotous mob of mall shoppers so many times before your holiday cheer turns into black bile.

Fortunately a number of filmmakers have developed their own antidotes to the Christmas season. Here are a few films you can watch when a break from all the carolling and irritating



Actor Billy Bob Thornton portrays a mall santa in *Bad Santa*.

well-wishing is needed.

- **THE REF:** Ted Demme may have died tragically young, but at least he gave us the finest anti-Christmas comedy before he left. Dennis Leary stars as a chain-smoking jewel thief who holds a dysfunctional family hostage on Christmas Eve. More holiday

movies should have an emotional climax in which Kevin Spacey tells his mother, "You know what I'm going to get you next Christmas, Mom? A big wooden cross, so that every time you feel unappreciated for your sacrifices, you can climb on up and nail yourself to it."

Jack Black to appear on the Office

Comedian Jack Black is set to guest star in hit show *The Office*. The actor will appear in an episode slated to air in February, right after the SuperBowl. [IMDB.COM](#)

- **BAD SANTA:** Director Terry Zwigoff says that he and his ghost screenwriters, the Coen brothers, used to describe *Bad Santa* as "the Christmas movie only three Jews could make." Considering the fact that this film stars a foul-mouthed elf, a woman with a Santa fetish, and a safe-cracking mall Santa who gets drunk and pees his pants on the job, they've got a point.
- **DIE HARD:** It's not commonly discussed, but the movie that made Bruce Willis a star is not only set at Christmas but ends with a rendition of *Let It Snow*. If there's a better way of ringing in the holidays then watching Willis shoot Alan Rickman with a gun concealed on his back with tape that reads "Seasons Greetings," I haven't found it.

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Twilight sequel harder, star says

MOVIES The surprise success of *Twilight*, the teen vampire movie that boasted a bigger opening North American weekend box office than the new James Bond, could make the sequel harder to sell, its leading actors said.

The movie, based on the novel by author Stephenie Meyer, made \$69.6 million US in movie theatres over its first weekend last month. "We had nothing to lose in the first one," said British actor Robert Pattinson.

REUTERS

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

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GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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primetime	1217	08	265 353 2	TVO Meerkat Manor	Meerkat Manor	The Agenda With Steve Paikin	New Tricks			The View From Here	Agenda-Paikin	
			211 331 3	GTV ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones	Bones (HDTV PA)			Ancestors in the Attic	News (N)	
			- - 5	SRC Antarctique	Les Bagnoles *** (2006, Comédie), Paul Newman (SC)		Bougon			Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)	La Zone	
			209 342 6	CHRO Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)	Private Practice (N)			(10:01) Dirty Sexy Money	News (N)	
			196 311 7	CTV Hollywood	etalk	A Muppets Christmas	Criminal Minds "Normal"			CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)	News (N)	
			208 303 8	CBC Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Mr. Bean	Frosty Returns			CBC News: The National	The Hour	
			- 360 9	NBC Wheel-For-Tune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Muppets Christmas	Life "Trapdoor" (N)			Law & Order "Zero"	News (N)	
			117 713 10	TVA Km/h (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	La Panthère rose ** (2006, Comédie)				TVA 22 heures (10:45) Musicographie		
			- - 11	QS Un défi pour Noël (2005, Com. Sentimentale), Carly Pope		Pushing Daisies (SC)	Juste pour rire			Cent dix pour cent (SC)	Msr Showbiz	
			137 763 12	TFO Panorama	Les Citadins du rebut global	Trois saisons ** (1999, Drame) Don				Duong.	Enfants	
news			- 362 13	CBS Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr				CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)	Two/Half Men	
			216 395 14	OMN2 Cold Case "Detention"	News (N)					Two-Half Men	King	
			214 344 15	CITY Law & Order: SVU	Friends	Friends				To Be Announced	News (N)	
			115 343 16	CFMT Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)				The Simpsons	King of the Hill	
			218 345 18	E! The Insider (N)	E! News	Secret Millionaire (N)				True Hollywood Story	News (N)	
			- 361 20	ABC News (N)	Entertainment	Pushing Daisies (N)				(10:01) Dirty Sexy Money	News (N)	
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			651 355 25	CTS Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show	100 Huntley Street			Life Today	This Is Day	
			- 365 36	FOX TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Secret Millionaire (N)	Bones (HDTV PA)			News (N)		
			- - 64	PBS Business Rpt.	Drum TV	Whiz Quiz	Great Performances (HDTV) (N)					
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			400 280 30	TSN That's Hockey!	NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at Minnesota Wild. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre	
			410 403 52	SCR Woodbine Year in Review		Cabby Unlimit	Poker Million Pound Challenge.			NBA Basketball	San Antonio Spurs at New Orleans Hornets.	
			411 457 56	OLN Ed's Up	Videos	Trips Money Can't Buy	Adventures			Ed's Up	Word Travels	
			417 406 59	SC Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder			Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	
			554 544 48	TEL Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test			Futurama	The Critic	
family			557 540 51	FAM Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie			Life Derek	Ned's School	
			551 542 65	YTV Charlie Brown	Sabrina-Witch	Mon. Warriors	Fresh Prince			Futurama	Prank Patrol	
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			521 560 34	TLC Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate Plus 8				Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	
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			616 521 39	SHO Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County	Billable Hours			G-Spot	The Starter Wife (N)	
			620 523 40	BVO Desperate Housewives		Berkeley	Bravo!Videos			Wingfield	The Letters	
			520 505 42	DIS Daily Planet (N)		Cash Cab	Destroyed			Monster Moves	Mayday (N)	
cable variety			575 583 43	CMT Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.			Reba	Hope & Faith	
			601 562 45	SLC Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	X-Weighted "Debbi"				Real Housewives of OC	Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive	
			625 548 46	COM Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas			The Simpsons	South Park	
			294 529 47	TBS House-Payne	House-Payne	G.I. Jane *** (1997, Drama) Demi Moore, Viggo Mortensen.						
			600 564 49	H&G House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	The Stagers			Property Virgin	Unsellable	
			627 528 50	SPC Lost		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine	Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains			Fields of Fear		
			581 566 53	MTV Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs			Super Sweet	The Hills	
			618 524 54	TROP Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?			Family Guy	Seinfeld	
			522 506 55	HIS NCIS "Probie"		Cities of the Underworld				Captain Cook: Obsession	NCIS "Probie"	
			129 773 60	CD Biographies "Daniel Pilon"		Hantise (HDTV)				Université	Paranormales	
cable variety			261 394 61	V Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies			Christmas in Connecticut ** (1945, Comedy)		
			602 567 62	W Friends	Will & Grace	Shopping Bags	Shopping Bags			The Man Who Saved Christmas (2002, Docudrama), Ed Asner		
			269 350 70	APTN Canadian Geographic		Rez, White and Blues				APT National News: Contact	Tribal Treks	
			621 527 71	TLK Look-A-Like	Look-A-Like	TMZ (N)	etalk			DU Why	Britney Back?	
			603 561 95	FN The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover				Iron Chef America	Top Chef	

critics'corner

Holiday Festival on Ice

How about those Celtics? No, not the basketball team from Boston — the Celtic music that has made Cape Breton famous. It's featured in this year's edition of the skating special, as Kurt Browning, Jamie Sale and David Pelletier, Sasha Cohen, Jeffrey Buttle, Shawn Sawyer, and others perform to the music of Natalie MacMaster and the Cottars. The theme? "A Celtic Christmas," of course. 9 PM on 8 CBC



A Muppets Christmas: Letters to Santa

If it's half as much fun as "The Muppet Christmas Carol" or the specials they did with John Denver, this new holiday special is going to be a treat. When Kermit and company accidentally intercept three children's letters to St. Nick, they vow to hand-deliver them to the North Pole themselves with a little help from their friends. Whoopi Goldberg, Tony Sirico and Madison Pettis ("Cory in the House") are among their human co-stars. 8 PM on 7 CTV

Celebrity Buzz

50 Cent talks of fire

PEOPLE 50 Cent has opened up about the fire that destroyed his home earlier this year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The rapper, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, refused to openly blame Shaniqua Tompkins for the blaze in May, but did confirm she was ordered to leave his home in Dix Hills, N.Y., just days before it was torched.

"The courts told her she had to leave. It's kind of more like, 'If I can't have you, you can't have it,'" he told Quddus Philippe, a correspondent for U.S. TV show TV One Access.

When Quddus asked the rapper if he believed Tompkins lit the fire, he replied: "Well, I don't want to say that — don't try to make me say something I don't want to say. But, the circumstances to it might seem that way."

Six people, including 50 Cent and Tompkins' 10-

year-old son Marquis, were rushed to hospital after the blaze.

Earlier in the year, Tompkins had filed a lawsuit against 50 Cent, claiming he had promised her a house 10 years ago.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Williams denies plans to accept Ledger prize

PEOPLE Heath Ledger's ex-fiancée Michelle Williams has denied she was set to accept any awards the late star wins for his role in The Dark Knight, imdb.com reports.

Ledger's performance as The Joker in the last movie he completed before his drug overdose death in January is expected to earn him a clutch of posthumous prizes during the forthcoming awards season. He is already nominated for the Best Supporting Actor Golden Globe, and is hotly tipped to become the first posthumous acting Oscar winner since Peter Finch in 1977.

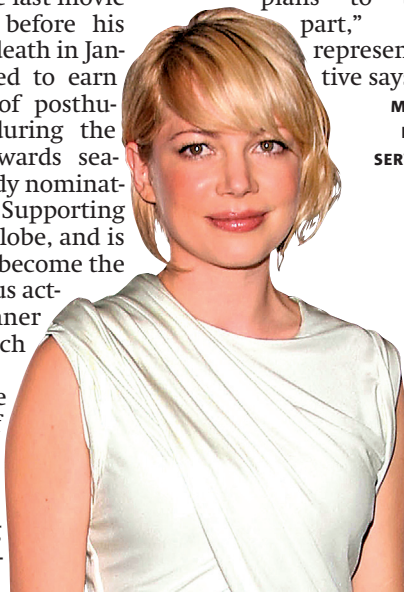
Williams, the mother of Ledger's daughter Matilida, was thought to be among those contend-

ing to accept awards on her ex's behalf, along with his father Kim.

But the actress won't be involved.

"No discussions have been made for Michelle to accept nor are there any plans to take part," her representative says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Panettiere treats young patients

SHOPPING Hayden Panettiere took patients from Los Angeles' Children's Hospital on a shopping spree over the weekend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress accompanied five girls on a shopping trip Saturday. Although Panettiere tried to give the group fashion advice, the kids had their own opinions on which outfits they wanted to choose.

"Not many of them listened to me!" Panettiere said, and laughed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Washington gets dual-citizenship

PEOPLE Former Grey's Anatomy star Isaiah Washington has become an official citizen of Sierra Leone, imdb.com reports.

The actor was born in Houston, Tex., but has spent several months working with Sierra Leone's President Ernest Bai Koroma in a bid to secure dual-nationality and celebrate his family's links to the African country.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Spears tops ET's hot list

PEOPLE Pop star Britney Spears has topped ET's annual Hot List, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Spears took the No. 1 spot in the list, made up of stars who have received the most coverage and mentions on the TV program Entertainment Tonight in the past year.

"From a historical election to surprising

splits, sizzling romances and major comebacks, 2008 was a remarkable year for celebrity news," an ET writer said.

TV talk-show host Oprah Winfrey followed Spears on the list.

Rounding off the Top 5 were actor Brad Pitt, U.S. president-elect Barack Obama and actress Angelina Jolie.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Richie not working on album

RUMOUR No, Nicole Richie is not working on an album, People.com reports.

Nor is she seeking musical advice from Rihanna or Kelly Osbourne, as a recent report suggested.

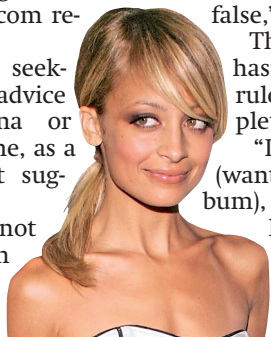
"That's not true. Although I think that Rihanna and

Kelly Osbourne are very talented, that's completely false," Richie said.

The reality TV star hasn't, however, ruled music out completely.

"I do eventually (want to record an album), but right now I have a lot on my plate," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Halliwell spotted with a new beau in Italy

COUPLE Geri Halliwell has a new boyfriend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Spice Girl, who recently split from her long-term partner Ivan (Flipz) Velez, is reportedly romancing a man named Walter.

The pair were pictured sharing a kiss on the dance floor at a recent Roberto Cavalli fashion launch in Florence, Italy, and have also been seen out shopping together and having lunch.

Halliwell reportedly dumped Velez over the phone in October after six months together.

"Geri said she'd hoped it would be an amazing love-of-her-life romance, but that the spark just wasn't there. She could-

n't deal with the distance between them and thought it was best to end it before he got even more hurt," a source said.

Halliwell recently admitted she struggles to commit to a relationship, saying she sometimes fears getting too close to someone.

"I think maybe I am a commitment-phobe," she said. "I definitely have commitment issues. It is lovely to be with somebody and find a connection and be intimate and open, to have companionship and sharing. That is wonderful, but I have learnt there are also minuses to that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Phillippe spends holiday overseas

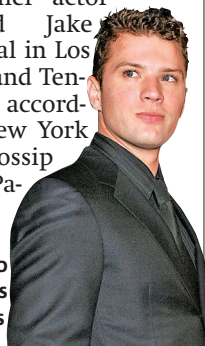
RELATIONSHIPS Actor Ryan Phillippe is set to spend Christmas in Australia meeting his girlfriend's family, imdb.com reports.

Phillippe has been dating actress Abbie Cornish since his split from ex-wife Reese Witherspoon in 2006.

After spending the Thanksgiving holiday last month with his two children by Witherspoon, Phillippe has flown to Australia to enjoy a romantic festive break with his partner, meeting her extended family in the country.

Phillippe's kids with Witherspoon, Ava, 9, and Deacon, 5, will spend the holidays with their mother and her actor boyfriend Jake Gyllenhaal in Los Angeles and Tennessee, according to New York Post gossip column PageSix.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jennifer is a good singer: Mayer

RELATIONSHIPS Jennifer Aniston loves singing and could have a successful music career, according to boyfriend John Mayer, imdb.com reports.

The actress is shy when it comes to showing off her voice, and only does it when she thinks no one else is listening. But Mayer is so impressed by her vocal talents, he's convinced she could become a recording artist.

METRO NEWS SERVICES





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